

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02797 030922Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /030 W
-----030923Z 106332 /13

R 030816Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2919
USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2797

FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICER: PLEASE PASS TO GEORGE BECK,
PETROCHEMICAL TRADE MISSION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP SY
SUBJ: US PETROCHEMICAL TRADE MISSION - DAMASCUS PROGRAM

1. PROGRAM FOR SUBJECT MISSION TAKING SHAPE. MISSION
WILL BE MET AT AIRPORT BY MINECON OFFICIALS (AS WELL AS
CONTROL OFFICER DAVIS) AND ACCORDED VIP WELCOME. HIRED
BUS WILL TRANSPORT GROUP TO MERIDIEN. MINISTER OF ECONOMY
IMADI WILL GIVE DINNER FOR MISSION MAY 8.

2. NO ONE IN SYRIAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO KNOW IF MAY 7
WILL BE HOLIDAY; CALLS BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMY TO PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE FAILED TO RESOLVE UNCERTAINTY. TRADITION
HERE IS THAT IF LEGAL HOLIDAY FALLS ON FRIDAY (AS THIS
YEAR, WITH MARTYRS' DAY ON MAY 6), PRIME MINISTER HAS
PREROGATIVE TO DECLARE FOLLOWING DAY A HOLIDAY. NO ONE
KNOWS YET IF HE WILL EXERCISE THIS PREROGATIVE.
ACCORDINGLY, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY HAS SCHEDULED MISSION
TO VISIT HOMS SATURDAY FOR ALL-DAY TOUR OF OIL REFINERY,
NITROGEN PLANT, AND PHOSPHATE COMPANY OFFICES. HOLIDAY
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02797 030922Z

OR NO, RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS OF THESE INSTALLATIONS
WILL BE ON HAND TO GREET AND ESCORT MISSION. SUNDAY AND
MONDAY ARE FULLY PROGRAMMED, WITH CALLS ON MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY OFFICIALS ON SUNDAY AND MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM
FIGURES (INCLUDING TECHNICAL PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH
PROJECTED PETROCHEMICAL AND GAS PLANTS) MONDAY. MISSION
MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE THIS SCHEDULE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN

PLANNING THEIR DEPARTURE FROM DAMASCUS.

3. EMBASSY WILL ORGANIZE AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION
MAY 7 WITHIN 600DOLS BUDGET. GUEST LIST HAS ABOUT 200
NAMES, WITH ABOUT 150 EXPECTED TO SHOW UP.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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